

What is claimed is:

1           **1.**    A method for analyzing text in a natural language, the  
2 method comprising:  
3                   constructing a hierarchical tree representing a text in a natural  
4 language; and  
5                   applying a reduce rule to the hierarchical tree, the rule  
6 applicable only to an instance of a predetermined sub-hierarchy of  
7 the hierarchical tree.

1           **2.**    The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying  
2 comprises  
3                   specifying the predetermined sub-hierarchy as a path through  
4 the hierarchical tree.

1           **3.**    The method of claim 2, wherein the step of applying  
2 further comprises  
3                   specifying the predetermined sub-hierarchy as a path through  
4 the hierarchical tree, the path a sequence of nodes starting at the  
5 root of the hierarchical tree.

1           **4.**    The method of claim 2, wherein the step of applying  
2 further comprises  
3                   specifying the predetermined sub-hierarchy as a path through  
4 the hierarchical tree, the path a sequence of nodes starting at an  
5 instance of a node other than the root of the hierarchical tree.

1           **5.**    A method for constructing a text analyzer, the method  
2 comprising:  
3                   enabling a user to specify reduce rules for a hierarchical tree

4 representing text in a natural language; and  
5 enabling the user to specify a rule applicable only to an  
6 instance of a predetermined sub-hierarchy of the hierarchical tree.

1                   **6.**    A data store wherein is located a computer program for  
2 constructing a text analyzer by:  
3                   enabling a user to specify reduce rules for a hierarchical tree  
4 representing text in a natural language; and  
5                   enabling the user to specify a rule applicable only to an  
6 instance of a predetermined sub-hierarchy of the hierarchical tree.

1                   **7.**    A computer system for creating a text analyzer, the  
2 computer system comprising:  
3                   the data store of claim **6**; and  
4                   a CPU, communicatively coupled to the data store and for  
5 executing the computer program in the data store.

1                   **8.**    A method for analyzing text in a natural language, the  
2 method comprising:  
3                   constructing a hierarchical tree representing a text in a natural  
4 language;  
5                   applying rules to nodes of the hierarchical tree to transform the  
6 tree, the rules having elements and suggested nodes; and  
7                   associating data with a node that matches an element of a  
8 rule.

1                   **9.**    A method for analyzing text in a natural language, the  
2 method comprising:  
3                   constructing a hierarchical tree representing a text in a natural  
4 language;

5 applying rules to nodes of the hierarchical tree to transform the  
6 tree, a rule having an element and a suggested node; and  
7 associating data with a node that matches a suggested node  
8 of a rule.

1                   **10.** A method for analyzing text in a natural language, the  
2 method comprising:

3                   constructing a hierarchical tree representing a text in a natural  
4                   language;

5 applying rules to nodes of the hierarchical tree to transform the  
6 tree, a rule having a context that is an instance of a predetermined  
7 sub-hierarchy of the hierarchical tree; and

8 associating data with a node that matches the context of a  
9 rule.